

Japanese-Language Education Overseas

According to the Japan Foundation's "Survey on Japanese-Language Education Abroad 2006" approximately 2.98 million people outside of Japan are studying Japanese, in 133 countries and regions around the world. If the number of people studying Japanese independently was included, it is estimated that the figure would be several times higher.

In response to the keen and growing interest in studying Japanese, the Japan Foundation provides assistance for Japanese-language education and the study of Japanese in a number of ways. We provide support to Japanese language teachers, educational organizations, and students; dispatch Japanese language specialists abroad; and conduct the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test and develop and disseminate teaching materials.



"Minna no Kyôzai": Website to Help Japanese-Language Teachers Overseas <http://momiji.jpf.go.jp/kyozai/>

This website was developed independently by the Japan Foundation in order to help teachers of Japanese living all over the world to create teaching materials for their learners. It went online in May 2002.

The website has a range of resources that can be used as teaching materials, such as photographs, illustrations, grammatical explanations, and example sentences. These are freely available to anyone who registers as a user. The website is available not only in Japanese, but also in English and Korean. The materials and functions on the website have been improved every year since it went online in 2002, and during FY2007 the site received approximately 3.35 million hits (page views).



Survey

Survey of Overseas Organizations Involved in Japanese-Language Education

Survey Report on Japanese-Language Education Abroad 2006: Present Condition of Overseas Japanese-Language Education

Every few years, the Japan Foundation carries out surveys of Japanese-language educational organizations overseas in order to obtain an up-to-date picture of Japanese-language teaching around the world as well as to be of use in making future Japanese-language education policy. This survey yields valuable data for use in many different areas, as there are no other surveys of this type that examine Japanese-language education worldwide.

The results of the 2006 survey (conducted from November 2006 to March 2007) are published as *Survey Report on Japanese-Language Education Abroad 2006: Present Condition of Overseas Japanese-Language Education*. A summary of the survey results and a list of individual organizations are available on the Japan

Foundation website.

<http://www.jpff.go.jp/e/japanese/survey/result/index.html>

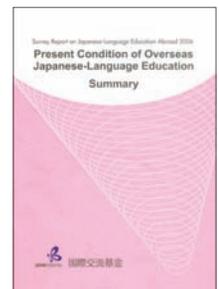
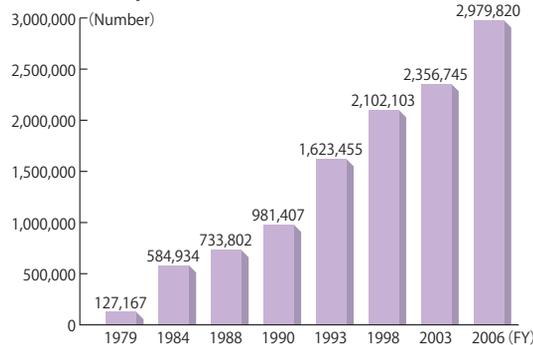
The survey showed that as of 2006, Japanese-language education was carried out in 126 countries and seven regions overseas, and that some 2.98 million people were learning Japanese. Compared to the previous survey, which was carried out in 2003, the number of learners has increased by 26.4%.

Looking at the number of learners by country, learners in countries in Asia and Oceania accounted for 90% of the total, with the highest number in the Republic of Korea (910,957), followed by China (684,366) and Australia (366,165). There was a particularly big increase in Southeast Asia and South Asia such as in Indonesia and India, an increase can be seen as a reflection of their educational systems that reform and strengthened economic relations with Japan.

Breakdown by Country

Country/Region	Number of Learners	(%)
1 South Korea	910,957	30.6%
2 China	684,366	23.0%
3 Australia	366,165	12.3%
4 Indonesia	272,719	9.2%
5 Taiwan	191,367	6.4%
6 United States	117,969	4.0%
7 Others	436,277	14.6%

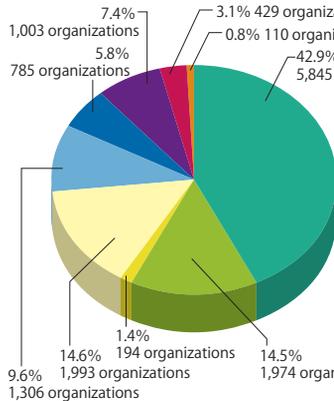
Number of Japanese Learners



Available from Bonjinsha Inc.
Price: ¥300
(incl. tax/¥286 excl. tax)

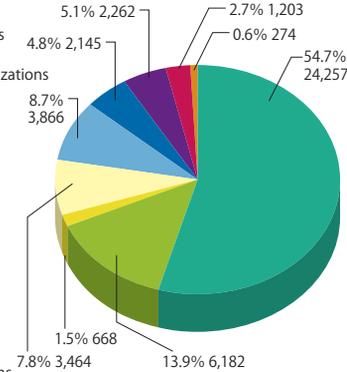
Number of Organizations

(Total of 13,639 organizations)



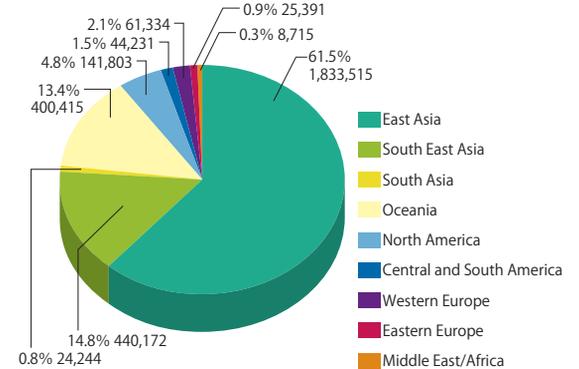
Number of Teachers

(Total of 44,321)



Number of Learners

(Total of 2,979,820)



The JF Nihongo Network

In March 2008, the Japan Foundation as the “Sakura Network” established the JF Nihongo Network, a network linking core Japanese-language educational organizations around the world. As of March 2008, we have 39 members in 31 countries. We will gradually expand the number of members to 100 within three years.

The Japan Foundation will provide effective assistance



to the Japanese-language education of the different countries and regions, in collaboration with the members of the network. At the same time, it will encourage Japanese-language education in even more countries and regions.

The Japanese-Language Proficiency Test

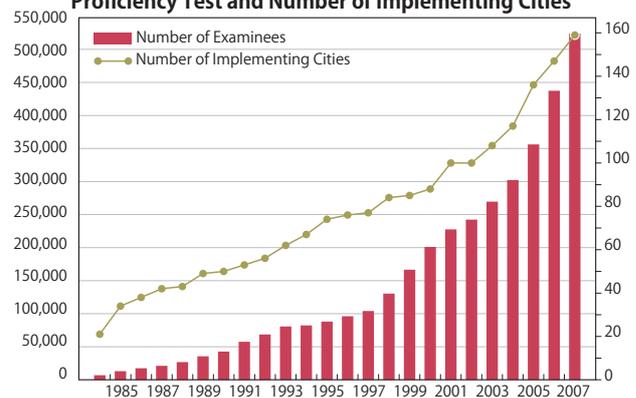
Approximately 520,000 Examinees in 159 Cities in 50 Countries and Regions Across the World

The Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) is designed to evaluate and certify the proficiency in the Japanese language of non-native speakers. Established in 1984, the test is conducted by the Japan Foundation in cooperation with local host institutions overseas. In Japan, the test is administered by Japan Educational Exchanges and Services, and in Taiwan it is administered by the Interchange Association.

The Japanese-Language Proficiency Test is divided into four levels: Level 1, the level reached after studying Japanese for around 900 hours; Level 2, reached after studying Japanese for around 600 hours; Level 3, reached after studying Japanese for around 300 hours; and Level 4, reached after studying Japanese for around 150 hours. Examinees are able to take whichever level is appropriate to their Japanese-language ability. The test at each level is made up of three sections: Writing-Vocabulary, Listening, and Reading-Grammar.

The FY2007 Japanese-Language Proficiency Test was

Number of Examinees Taking the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test and Number of Implementing Cities



held simultaneously across the whole world on Sunday, December 2. This was the 24th Japanese-Language Proficiency Test, and it was held in 137 cities in 49 countries and regions overseas, and in 22 prefectures and urban prefectures in Japan. The total number of applicants was 632,000, of whom 523,000 sat the exam.

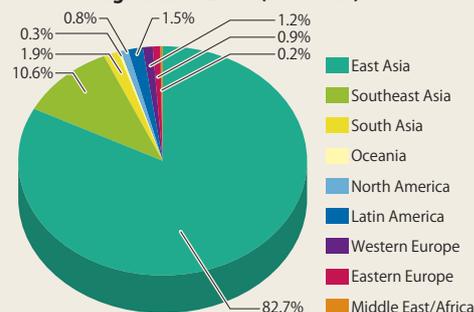
The official website of the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test:

<http://www.jlpt.jp/>

Top Ten Countries/Regions in Terms of Examinees in FY2007

	Country/Region	Number of Examinees
1	China	202,712
2	Republic of Korea	82,323
3	<Taiwan>	55,802
4	<Hong Kong>	13,722
5	Thailand	13,295
6	Vietnam	11,433
7	Indonesia	7,688
8	India	5,932
9	Singapore	4,166
10	Brazil	3,346
Overseas total		430,137
Within Japan		93,821

Comparison of Number of Examinees by Region in FY2007 (Overseas)



Information on Japanese-Language Education

Information and Research on Japanese-Language Education

Nihongo Kyôiku Tsûshin, No. 58-60

This journal in Japanese provides overseas Japanese-language teachers in particular with information on teaching materials, teaching ideas for the classroom, current topics in Japan, the situation of Japanese-language education, and so on. The website features exclusive articles as well as the PDF version of the pamphlet.

<http://www.jpf.go.jp/e/japanese/survey/tsushin/index.html>

Kokusai Kôryû Kikin Nihongo Kyôiku Kiyô, No. 3

(The Japan Foundation Japanese–Language Education Bulletin)

This is an anthology of articles that report the results of the educational and research activities of lecturers and staff members of the Japan Foundation. The PDF version is available on the Japan Foundation website.

<http://www.jpf.go.jp/e/japanese/survey/bulletin/03/index.html>

Sekai no Nihongo Kyôiku, Vol. 17

(Japanese–Language Education around the Globe)

This annual professional journal in Japanese contains peer-reviewed articles, selected from among those submitted from around the world, concerning Japanese-language education and research. Abstracts and complete PDF versions are available on the Japan Foundation website. It is distributed by the JFIC Library and Bonjinsha Inc. (price: ¥2,200)

<http://www.jpf.go.jp/e/japanese/survey/globe/17/index.html>

Nihongo Kyôiku Kunibetsu Jôh

Information concerning trends in Japanese-language education, educational systems, language teachers and learners in countries around the world is available on the Japan Foundation website. (In Japanese)

<http://www.jpf.go.jp/j/japanese/survey/country/index.html>

Japanese Language Teaching Resources

Let's Learn Japanese by DVD: *Erin's Challenge! I Can Speak Japanese.*

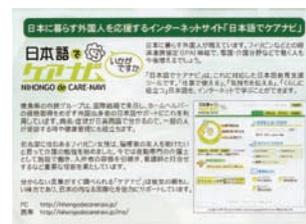
Erin's Challenge! I Can Speak Japanese. is a television course/DVD teaching material (on three DVDs) aimed at members of the younger generation attracted to learning Japanese by the “cool” culture of Japan such as manga and anime. There is a mini-drama in which popular Japanese entertainers appear, and explanations are given by an animated character. In addition, manga is used in the textbook. The course contents are designed to help foreigners gain the ability to use Japanese with confidence in a range of situations that they might encounter in Japan. Japan's traditional culture, as well as its latest fashions and its everyday customs, are mixed in with images that depict day-to-day life in Japan. The story follows Erin, an exchange student, as she experiences these aspects of life in Japan for the

first time, broadening viewers' perspectives of cultural differences and multiculturalism. *Erin's Challenge! I Can Speak Japanese.* was first aired on the NHK Educational Channel, NHK World, and other channels from October 2006 onward.



E-Learning Development Project: Nihongo de Care-navi

Nihongo de Care-navi is an Internet site that functions as a Japanese-English/English-Japanese dictionary. It was created especially for people studying Japanese in order to find work as nursing or care professionals, and as well as basic technical terms for nursing and care it also features a vast store of vocabulary and expressions used in everyday life.



Dispatching Japanese-Language Experts to the Overseas and Providing Grant Programs for Overseas Japanese-Language Organizations

The Japan Foundation sends 112 Japanese-Language Specialists and Assistant Teachers (the latter as part of the Japan Foundation Volunteer Programs) in total to the overseas offices of the Japan Foundation, Ministries of Education, and secondary and higher educational institutions in 39 countries. These experts promote and spread Japanese-language education in their dispatched countries by training teachers, providing classes, developing curricula and teaching materials, and giving advices on teaching methodologies and on preparation of teaching materials.



Japanese-Language Course in Baku State University, Azerbaijan

In addition, the Japan Foundation is offering grant to the overseas Japanese-language institutions as indirect support measures. Grants are provided to rewards for teachers in the Japanese-language courses, to Japanese speech contest, and to seminars and workshops for Japanese-language educators organized by Japanese-language educational institutions. To provide more effective and efficient supports, the Japan Foundation periodically review the deployment of dispatched experts and the design of grant programs to address various needs of the Japanese-language educational institutions abroad.



South-Korean Students Taking a Lesson of Japanese-Language

Speech Contest

The 48th International Speech Contest in Japanese

The 48th International Speech Contest in Japanese was held in Izumisano City, Osaka, on May 26, 2007, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai. It was co-hosted by the Japan Foundation, the International Education Center, the Osaka Foundation of International Exchange, and the City of Izumisano, and was attended by Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado. The audience was made up of over 800 people. The 12 finalists were selected from 111 applicants from 28 countries or regions, and they gave speeches in fluent Japanese on a variety of topics, which included their experiences of cultural differences and international exchanges. The event was later broadcast on the NHK Educational Channel.



The 48th prize winners. Kim Yohan (left), Lee Jaehoon(right)



Affiliated Institutes

Besides the headquarters in Tokyo, the Japan Foundation also has two affiliated organizations in Japan.

The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa

The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa was established in 1989 in Saitama City, Saitama Prefecture, as an organization affiliated with the Japan Foundation. The Institute provides professional training for overseas Japanese-language teachers who play key roles at their schools, and manages a library dedicated to Japanese-language instruction.

Every year, approximately 500 Japanese-language teachers from more than 50 countries and regions participate in special training programs that range in length from three weeks to nine months. These courses have been commended for their practical content, which, in addition to classroom study, includes visits to Japanese schools and a viewing of traditional performing arts such as *Kabuki*.

As projects in material production, the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa develops textbooks, dictionaries, multimedia teaching materials and teaching resources that are difficult to produce overseas, and

provides them to teaching institutions abroad them to.

In addition, the Institute provides grants to publishers overseas that plan to produce Japanese-language-related teaching materials.

The Institute also donates difficult-to-obtain teaching materials to overseas educational institutions offering regular Japanese courses.



The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai

In response to the growing number of Japanese-language learners overseas and their increasingly diverse reasons and motivations for studying Japanese, the Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai was established in 1997 in Tajiri-cho, Osaka Prefecture as another facility for study of the Japanese language.

Taking advantage of the benefits of residential study programs, in which students live in dormitory accommodation during their term of study, the Institute invites personnel from the diplomatic service and other public services of various countries, as well as young researchers undertaking Japanese studies, who need to learn Japanese language for their academic research activities. The Institute also offers short-term study programs, for which the Japan Foundation invites students of the Japanese language to Japan as a means of giving further encouragement to motivated learners.

To promote international exchanges in various areas of Japan, the Institute cooperates with local public entities and non-profit organizations to arrange opportunities for Institute students and local people to interact and engage in activities and projects together.

